

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1444.

This bill makes it illegal to sell, transfer, or furnish performance enhancing dietary supplements containing potentially harmful chemicals to those under 18 years of age. Increasingly, young adults engaged in sports are consuming these potentially harmful products because they believe these products will provide a competitive advantage. Data from national surveys reveal an alarming increase in the number of young adults who report taking performance-enhancing products such as those identified in this legislation. Performance-enhancing dietary supplements have been implicated in serious illnesses and deaths throughout the country. I believe it is important to enact this legislation to ensure that our young adults are protected from these potentially harmful products. We must also continue our efforts with educating our children, young adults, parents, and teachers about the dangers associated with these products.

Although this bill would remove a reference in current law to the undefined term “steroid hormone precursor (SHP),” which had previously prevented the Department of Health Services (DHS) from enforcing current law; it would retain that term in the statutes related to labeling requirements for dietary supplements containing SHPs. Without an adequate definition of SHP, DHS is unable to implement the labeling requirements. Therefore, I am requesting the author work with DHS to find a mutually agreed upon definition of SHP and to introduce legislation next session to define that term in statute.

Sincerely

Arnold Schwarzenegger